

Learning in the 'green classroom'

Neukirchen-Vluyn, Germany – On the plot of the Gerhard-Tersteegen-Schule school in Neukirchen-Vluyn in Germany, there is a garden with a small pond hidden behind some walls. A sixth of this space is maintained by a working group at the school as a mini school garden.



Thanks to donations from the Heinz Trox Foundation and active support from the Tu-Was cooperative, a 'green classroom' has been built in the rest of the space over the past couple of years. This involved creating a paved area with seating, a 'box garden with raised beds', a 'spiral-shaped herb garden', a 'worm café' compost heap and an 'adventure trail'.

Part of the garden, known as the 'ark', will deliberately be left untouched to show the children how nature develops without any human intervention.

The paving proved to be a big headache for quite some time, as it could only be done by a skilled tradesperson, who unfortunately was very busy with little free time. But as long as the paths and lesson area were not fully paved, the garden was classed as a construction site where entry was forbidden due to the risk of accident and which was not permitted to be used as a 'classroom'.

The paving was finally completed in April 2022, meaning the pupils were able to plant their first vegetable varieties.

A woodworking company is making little stools for the children at the moment, at the instigation of the town's cultural officer, so they will soon be able to sit outside for their lessons.

2021 donation overview

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

EMPFÄNGER 2021

NEUKIRCHEN-VLUYN

- Chancenwerk (organisation advocating for fair educational opportunities)
- The Protestant Church
- Stadtbücherei (BNE) friends' association (public library's education for sustainable development initiative)
- Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe e.V. (Protestant humanitarian aid organisation)
- Malteser Hilfsdienst e.V. (Order of Malta Volunteers, Catholic aid organisation)
- Neukirchener Erziehungsverein 'Rikschas' (charitable association)
- Neukirchen-Vluyn's 'App in die Mitte' project
- SV Neukirchen Schwimmjugend (youth swimming club)

ANHOLT

- St. Elisabeth Haus retirement and nursing home
- DRK, Borken, 'GrenzenLos' (German Red Cross project)
- Voluntary fire service
- Westfalia-Anholt, sports club

GOCH

- DRK Ortsverein Goch (branch of the German Red Cross)
- Goch municipal administration (ASTRA youth centre)

BAD HERSFELD

- Bad Hersfelder Festspiele
- Jugendhandball-Förderverein
- Ski-Club Neuenstein
- Stiftung Hospital Bad Hersfeld

ACADEMIC DONATIONS

2021 RECIPIENTS

- Beuth University of Applied Sciences Berlin, Professor Finke
- Esslingen University of Applied Sciences, Professor Albers
- Leipzig University of Applied Sciences, Professor Hartmann
- Karlsruhe University of Applied Sciences, Professor Kauffeld
- Munich University of Applied Sciences, Professor Renner
- Ostfalia University of Applied Sciences, Wolfenbüttel, Professor Schnieder
- TH Köln – University of Applied Sciences (Cologne), Professor Henne
- Mittelhessen University of Applied Sciences, Gießen, Professor Winkler
- Westphalian University of Applied Sciences Gelsenkirchen, Professor Fieberg
- Vocational schools, Kleve
- Kath. Grundschule Anholt 'Frühstart' (breakfast club at Anholt Catholic primary school)
- Musikschule Neukirchen-Vluyn (music school)
- Schule für Isselburg (project to create a school)
- Bundeselternrat, Oranienburg (National Parents' Council)
- Hermann-Rietschel-Institut (institute at the Technische Universität Berlin)
- SMOG e.V. (campaign against violence in schools)
- THW-Stiftung, Berlin (foundation for technical relief)
- WIFU-Stiftung, Berlin (foundation to promote family entrepreneurship)

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HEINZ TROX
STIFTUNG

Aachen Air Quality Day and sustainability in schools

Science meets practice and politics



'You can't teach
an old dog new tricks'



With the launch of its new event format called the 'Aachener Tag der Luftqualität' (Aachen Air Quality Day), the Heinz Trox Foundation started the ball rolling on the subject of 'school ventilation for creating a good learning climate in sustainable school buildings' by allowing people to share their thoughts and knowledge in a way that was intended to get results.

Distinguished experts from Germany and abroad discussed the latest findings, insights and study results covering every aspect of school ventilation in front of a guest panel of scientists, practitioners and politicians plus another 200 or so delegates.

The focus was on air as our most important source of nourishment – after all, we breathe in around 11,200 litres of it every day. Another key question was this: 'What requirements do we need to set out as a society in this context and what might the next steps be?'

The day produced a plethora of fascinating responses and provided plenty of inspiration for working out how efficient school ventilation could be used to create a good learning climate – and for so much more besides.

Dear Readers,
This saying may once have reflected popular 'wisdom', but today the talk is quite rightly all about lifelong learning. Education is the foundation of our whole lives, and it is indeed easier to learn many things in our younger years than when we are older. What's more, no one can destroy your education or take it away from you – and you can take it with you wherever you go.

So, education is almost always sustainable by its very nature. Therefore it is very fitting that the Heinz Trox Foundation is supporting such a huge array of educational projects. In the academic field, the Foundation was already focussing on the issue of air in schools even before the coronavirus hit. After all, if little Johnny is drowsy because he's breathing in low-quality air, he will not learn as well as he could. This topic is now even exerting an influence on governmental recommendations, standards and regulations, which will hopefully one day lead to healthy, energy-efficient mechanical ventilation systems becoming the norm in schools. In this, its thirtieth year, the Foundation can look back on a vast range of different sponsorship activities. Read on for more information about our current projects. I hope you enjoy reading this issue!

Yours, Hans Fleisch



On the platform (from left to right): Professor Dirk Müller (RWTH Aachen University); Anja Daniels (German Environment Agency); Dr Eckart von Hirschhausen, who gave the keynote speech; aerosol physicist Dr Gerhard Scheuch (GS Bio-Inhalation GmbH); and Andreas Bartsch (President of the North Rhine-Westphalian Teachers' Association)

The first Aachen Air Quality Day is the best example of how innovative ideas and developments from the scientific community and the world of politics can be shared in an informative way. The event was presided over by Christine Roßkothen (from the board of directors of the Heinz Trox Foundation) and Professor Dirk Müller (RWTH).

All presentations are available in full on the Internet.

Getting ready for the production of tomorrow

'Digital Learning Factory 2021' at Berufskolleg Kleve vocational college

Kleve – Robotics is one of the most important technologies of the future. It presents many companies with opportunities to improve their productivity and growth. As such, this technology is key to implementing the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

This is why Berufskolleg Kleve is in the middle of setting up its 'Digital Learning Factory 2021'. It is designed to simulate the production environments of tomorrow, where manufacturing robots communicate independently with other system parts, sensors and actuators in the Internet of Things (IoT).

'The end goal is to eventually make our own product in the Learning Factory. This will allow us to show the pupils the entire development cycle and life cycle of a product in a realistic fashion, so they will be as well prepared as possible to face the demands of the future,' says Jochen Verrieth (Head of the Electrical Engineering & Information Technology department and Head of the Electrical Engineering programme at the college).

The project has a modular design. The first step was about procuring the robots and some of the Industry 4.0 systems.

The Heinz Trox Foundation supported the project once again in 2021 by donating a large sum of money. This was on top of the funds it had already contributed in 2020 for procuring the hardware and software required by the IT network technology.



Extra costs due to coronavirus are balanced out

Heinz Trox Foundation supports the Goch Youth Red Cross summer camp

Goch, Germany – For a few years now, the local Youth Red Cross has put on a summer camp in the Sauerland region for children and young people from the Goch area. Up to 80 children take part in this event every year, with the 35-strong team of support staff always offering up a diverse programme of activities.

It was not possible to hold the summer camp in Sauerland in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. But the team arranged a two-week 'local summer camp' as an alternative.

Then in 2021 it was time to head back to Sauerland. The team of support staff had developed a bespoke and comprehensive hygiene regimen including regular self-tests administered under supervision, for example, to ensure that everyone could relax and enjoy their time there – and it worked, with not one single infection being picked up.

'Thanks to a generous donation from the Heinz Trox Foundation, we did not have to increase the participant fees for 2021, even though the extensive hygiene measures did cost a great deal,' says Hermann-Josef Kleinen, Chairman of the Board of DRK Ortsverein Goch e.V., a branch of the German Red Cross. 'Plans for next time are already in full swing and everyone is looking forward to the next camp in summer 2022!'



Extending a helping hand

Stiftung Hospital Bad Hersfeld foundation

Bad Hersfeld, Germany – The 'Hospital am Johannestor' foundation, established by Louis I in 1239, has made it its mission to help and support people – especially elderly people – who are in need. The foundation offers a helping hand to anyone not caught by the social safety net – and/or for whom welfare benefits do not stretch far enough.

Helping people to cope with everyday life

Thanks to generous donations from the Heinz Trox Foundation, once again in 2021 the volunteer carers were able to give a huge number of vulnerable people the support they so desperately needed to cope with the challenges of day-to-day life. For example, lots of senior citizens were able to get hot food via meals on wheels service.

But the Foundation's donations helped with so much more besides, such as giving people advice on issues they may be having in

their daily lives; supporting them through crises; helping them to deal with authorities; and assisting them to buy care products, access chiropody services and attend physical therapy sessions – for example, by providing transport or paying for its cost.

Coaxing service users out of isolation

Since the service users being looked after by the foundation often live very solitary lives, it is paramount to bring them out of this isolation. 'Last year, with the help your donations, we were able to put on a canoeing tour, coffee and crafting afternoons, a goose dinner and a small Christmas party,' says Gunter Grimm, Bad Hersfeld Council Chairman. 'Since much of this would not be possible without the help of volunteers, we also launched some events to boost volunteer engagement. I would also particularly like to offer my thanks to all the volunteers on behalf of the town authorities, the foundation council and the people who need their support.'